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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UPPER MIDWEST RECEIVES CBS AWARD AT CHAMBER’S JANUARY SOCIAL RECEPTION**

**(SAINT PAUL, MINN., January 31, 2014) -** Gina Blayney accepted a Celebrate Business Success Award this week on behalf of Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest at the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce’s January Social Reception.

Junior Achievement is the oldest, largest and fastest-growing nonprofit economics education program throughout the world. They teach students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, money management, how to be responsible consumers, workers and citizens, and provides them with the skills needed to succeed in school and beyond.

The organization empowers students to make a connection between what they learn in school and how it can be applied in the real world, thereby enhancing the relevance of their classroom learning and the value of staying in school. Their programs are offered free of charge to schools and align with national and local curriculum standards.

Junior Achievement partners with more than 7,000 volunteers each year to teach local students. During the 2012-2013 school year, Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest impacted 16,000 students in Saint Paul alone, and more than 149,000 students in Minnesota, North Dakota and western Wisconsin.

The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce created a recognition program called Celebrate Business Success in 2005 to honor businesses and individuals in the community. The program has become a tradition at the Chamber and recognizes those who provide leading examples of how members of the business community contribute to a shared vision of economic success throughout the Saint Paul/East Metro area. The Chamber receives hundreds of nominations each year, from which about 15 winners are chosen. Winners are presented with the award at Chamber events throughout the year.

 **About the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce**

The [Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce](http://saintpaulmncoc.weblinkconnect.com/cwt/external/wcpages/) is a vital, dynamic force serving the business community through the collective strength of its members. For more than 140 years, the Chamber has provided vibrant programs, powerful advocacy and results that foster member growth. With nearly 1,200 members, the SPACC is the largest local chamber in Minnesota.

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